

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094219 TOSEC 100061

NODIS

FOL REPEAT BEIRUT 3464 ACTION SECSTATE APRIL 19, 1976

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3464

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN APPREHENSIONS

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF SYRIAN TALKS WITH PALESTINIANS BEGINNING TO FILTER THROUGH TO THE CHRISTIANS AND IS GIVING SOME OF THEM THE FEELING OF BEING LEFT OUT IN THE COLD.

2. LAST DECEMBER AND JANUARY, DISCUSSIONS ABOUT LEBANON'S FUTURE WERE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND THE CHRISTIANS, THE SYRIANS SAYING THAT THEY WOULD ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GETTING THE PALESTINIANS AND THE LEFT ON BOARD. NOW DISCUSSIONS ON THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND THE PALESTINIANS, WITH THE SYRIANS APPARENTLY AGREEING TO GET THE CHRISTIANS ON BOARD.

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EM ABOVE EXPLAINS TO SOME EXTENT WHY CHAMOUN IS DRAGGING HIS
FEET AND WHY FRANGIE SENT AN ENVOY TO DAMASCUS TO INQUIRE ABOUT
THE OLD SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO GUARANTEE THE CAIRO AGREEMENT. WITH
SYRIAN FORCES APPARENTLY PLANNING TO PLAY A LESSER SECURITY ROLE IN
LEBANON THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED, AND WITH THE PALESTINIANS A
GREATER ROLE, YOU CAN REALLY ASK HOW SYRIA CAN KEEP ITS ORIGINAL
COMMITMENT TO THE CHRISTIANS RE THIS AGREEMENT--IF IT EVER
INTENDED TO DO SO IN THE FIRST PLACE. BROWN

UNQUOTE. ROBNSON

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NNN

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